

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are requested.

The applicant appreciates the interview conducted by Examiner Hanig on December 18, 1997. In the interview, it was noted that one of the more salient features of the present invention is that the source of electromagnetic radiation is a "non-contact" source. Independent claims 1 and 17 have been amended to reflect this.

The examiner also noted objections to the claims based on 35 U.S.C. §112. However, these have been corrected by the foregoing amendments to point out that the radiation is either in the optical range or nuclear radiation.

With respect to the prior art, Barnes et al. relates to a micromechanical sensor that detects "heat," not radiation. When the sensor is "heated," it bends, and the bending movement is correlated to a temperature change. The Barnes patent is similar to Burnes et al. in that heat, not radiation, is detected. Burns discloses "a resonant strain transducer which can be augmented by an appropriate microstructure to measure pressure, acceleration, force and other applied stimuli." (col. 1, lines 51-54).

"Depending on the design of the microstructure formed monolithically with the microbeam, the induced strain can be caused by and not limited to pressure, acceleration, temperature, air flow or humidity." (col. 2, lines 41-44). Thus, Burns is directed to measuring pressure, acceleration, force, other

applied stimuli, and acceleration, temperature, air flow, and humidity, but not radiation. Burns does not teach or suggest radiation detection, as recited by the claims. In col. 9, line 67 through col. 10, line 1, Burns states, "Such microbeam structure 150 has application as a temperature sensor as the resonance frequency of structure 150 would change with respect to the temperature of structure 150." Again, ambient temperature measurement is not radiation measurement, because ambient temperature measurement requires that "contact" with the fluid medium.

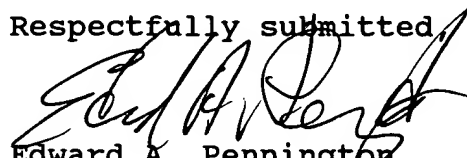
Claims 8, 20, 21 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Foss '426. Claims 9 and 14-16 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Burns '516. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Foss '426 nor Burns '516 is directed to the radiation detection art to which Applicants' claims are specifically directed. It is submitted that a skilled artisan reading such cited patents would not have appreciated the problem discovered and solved by the present Applicants, i.e., the problem of detecting radiation. If there is no appreciation of the problem, it is submitted that there can be no suggestion (express, implied or otherwise) to use or combine the teachings of the references to solve such problem, thus to arrive at Applicants' claimed invention.

The applicant notes the examiner's indication of allowance with respect to claim 24.

Since the claims point out new and unobvious features not found in nor suggested by the references cited by the Examiner, reconsideration and allowance of the claims are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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